

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

newspapers in Labrador, but during the election campaign, I watched the debate on television and I saw Mr. Ritchie, on behalf of the Government's negotiating team, fail to give an assurance that there would be no countervail. I would like someone to address this question.

Mr. Crosbie: I am going to address it for you.

Mr. Rompkey: Fine. Let me set out the question. After we have developed the lower Churchill—

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Can we give you an answer?

Mr. Rompkey: Once you have heard the question. Do you want to hear the question first? This is the question. If, after the lower Churchill was developed, we wanted to establish an aluminum smelter in order to add value and if we wanted to offer that company a special price, like the Government of Newfoundland did at Long Harbour with the Electric Reduction Company of Canada, as an incentive for the industry to be set up, can the Americans not then say that the products from that industry have received a subsidy in the sense that we have charged the industry a lower price for energy than we are selling it to the Americans? Can the Americans not then put a countervail on the products coming from that industry?

I heard that debate and I heard the representative from the government side fail to give an assurance that after this agreement is in place, the Americans will not be able to put that countervail on. I believe that they will be able to do so. I believe if we have a made-in-Canada price, a Canadian price which is lower than the American price, the Americans will be able to say that that is an unfair subsidy and they will put a countervail on it. There is nothing in the Free Trade Agreement which stops them from doing that.

Those are the concerns of people who want real jobs, not just hand-outs, as my colleague from Nunatsiak said. Will we be able to set up those industries under the free trade deal? That is the question that has to be answered.

The irony is that we do not even have free trade within Canada. For four years we have been trying to get a deal to develop the lower Churchill. I asked the Prime Minister four times in the last Parliament if he would be a mediator between the Province of Newfoundland and the Province of Quebec in attempting to establish the lower Churchill project. It is not going yet.

There is an abundant market for energy in the United States. There is all sorts of hydroelectric potential in Labrador. Yet we cannot get a deal. We are talking about a free trade deal with the United States of America, but we do not have free trade in Canada. This Government has not done anything to overcome those road-blocks.

I have to support the arguments put forward by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Nunatsiak, and I congratulate him on his election to the Chamber. I hope to be able to work with him because we have many things in common. We need in Labrador the same sort of things he needs in his riding. That is, we need essential services. If we are to compete, whether we have a free trade deal or not, the North needs special attention. It needs water and sewer infrastructures, for example.

Those communities will be expected to compete on an equal basis without equal facilities. We need the trans-Labrador Highway to be completed and we need the settlement of land claims so that the native people of the North can compete on an equal footing. The native people are saying they want some control over their lives, that they want to make sure that the resources on the lands they have inhabited for years give them a return and that they have the necessary infrastructure and community facilities to compete on an equal basis.

What is also lacking is a program for training and retraining. This has been addressed in the House over the past week. If there is one startling weakness in all of this, it is the lack of a program for training and retraining, particularly for young people and for people who live in one-industry towns, those who have no alternatives. If their industries are affected under the free trade deal, they will have to fall back on the resources of the Government. I believe it is very important to have training and retraining programs in place for the people of single-industry towns.

As far as my constituents are concerned, the free trade deal as it stands is inadequate. This Party has put forward amendments, and I would hope that the Government would look at those amendments, consider them and accept them. We cannot stop this deal from going ahead. The Hon. Member for Parry Sound—Muskoka is quite right. There was an election and the people have spoken. The Conservative Party has a majority. It is the Government of Canada. They have more votes over there than we have over here. It is impossible to stop the free trade deal. However, we do ask that we be listened to and that the concerns our constituents have expressed be addressed. We do ask